



MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Violet Varona-Lukens, Executive Officer  
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors  
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration  
Los Angeles, California 90012

All Department/District Heads

At its meeting held June 11, 2002, the Board took the following action:

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The following statement was entered into the record for Supervisors Molina and Burke:

“According to the California banking industry, Mexican immigrants have recently deposited over \$50 million in banks that accept identification cards issued by the Consulate of Mexico. The Mexican government issues the identification cards known as ‘matricula consular’ to residents living abroad who can prove Mexican citizenship. The cards are state-of-the-art photo ID’s with safeguards to prevent counterfeiting.

“Local law enforcement agencies like the Santa Ana Police Department and the Los Angeles Police Department have implemented the consular identification project as an effective tool to track and identify this population. Currently, the Sheriff’s Department uses the ‘matricula card’ as identification for the visitors of jail inmates.

“Local governments, including the City of Los Angeles, San Francisco, Santa Ana and Oakland accept these identification cards. It is very difficult, if not impossible, to carry on with the day-to-day activities of life in Los Angeles without identification cards. These cards will enable many of our residents to participate in such basic services as signing on for power and water service, obtaining library cards and reporting domestic violence. The use of the martricula card is for identification use only and by no means will it be used to qualify for unmandated benefits to the undocumented community.

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Syn. 90 (Continued)

"As one of the largest concentrations of Mexican nationals outside of Mexico is within the County of Los Angeles, it is appropriate that the County investigate the feasibility of accepting official identification cards issued by the Mexican Consulate."

Therefore, Supervisor Molina made a motion that the Board authorize all County departments during the normal course of operations and interactions with the public to accept for identification purposes, the identification cards issued by the Consulate of Mexico known as "matricula consular," a card which bears a photograph of the person and the person's date of birth.

Marian Galicia Duarte, representing Wells Fargo, Alejandra Bologna, Consulate General of Mexico, Salvador Jimenez, Deputy Consul, Consulate General of Mexico, Fabiola Vilchez, representing Los Angeles City Councilmember Eric Garcetti, Commander Louis Gray, Los Angeles Police Department, Chief Al Scaduto, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, and Angelica Salas, representing the Coalition for Human Immigrant Rights of Los Angeles addressed the Board.

After discussion, Supervisor Yaroslavsky made a suggestion that Supervisor Molina's motion be amended with the understanding that the "matricula card" be used for identification purposes only and not as proof of legal residence. Supervisor Molina accepted Supervisor Yaroslavsky's amendment.

The following statement was entered into the record for Supervisor Burke:

"The 'matricula card' is an effective and proven method of allowing Mexican nationals to identify themselves to law enforcement and other government agencies as well as the private sector. In fact, this type of identification card is an idea that may be implemented by other consulates on behalf of various populations residing throughout the County of Los Angeles. Since the card will not result in any increased costs to the County, it will not entitle anyone to new health and welfare benefits, it is an excellent way to allow thousands of residents access to official government-issued identification."

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Syn. 90 (Continued)

After discussion, Supervisor Burke made a suggestion that Supervisor Molina's motion be amended as follows:

1. Instruct the Chief Administrative Officer to inform all County departments that the acceptance of the "matricula card" shall not extend any new benefits to undocumented immigrants;
2. Instruct the Chief Administrative Officer to report back on the implementation of accepting the "matricula card" as an identification card at County facilities after the initial six months and report its findings; and
3. Instruct the Chief Administrative Officer to report back on similar policies for acceptance of photo identification cards that are issued by other consulates provided that such cards are officially issued and recognized by their respective governments and that they contain state-of-the-art safeguards to prevent counterfeiting.

Supervisor Knabe made a suggestion that Supervisor Molina's motion and Supervisor Burke's amendment regarding the acceptance of the "matricula card" be amended to institute acceptance of the card as a pilot project at all County facilities, and instruct the Chief Administrative Officer to report back in six months with findings on the progress of the pilot program.

Supervisors Molina and Burke accepted Supervisor's Knabe's amendment.

After further discussion, on motion of Supervisor Molina, seconded by Supervisor Burke, duly carried by the following vote: Ayes: Supervisors Molina, Burke, Knabe and Yaroslavsky; Noes: Supervisor Antonovich, the Board took the following actions:

1. Instituted as a pilot project at all County facilities, the acceptance of the "matricula consular," an identification card issued by the Consulate of Mexico which bears the person's photograph and date of birth; and instructed the Chief Administrative Officer to report back in six months with findings on the progress of the pilot project;

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Syn. 90 (Continued)

2. Authorized all County departments in its normal course of operations and interactions with the public to accept the "matricula consular" for identification purposes only and not as proof of legal residency, during the six month pilot project; and
3. Instructed the Chief Administrative Officer to:
  - a. Inform all County departments that the acceptance of the "matricula card" shall not extend any new benefits to undocumented immigrants; and
  - b. Report back on similar policies for acceptance of photo identification cards issued by other consulates provided that such cards are officially issued and recognized by their respective governments and that they contain state-of-the-art safeguards to prevent counterfeiting.

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